

**In the Claims**

Please cancel claims 1-33, without prejudice.

Please add claims 34-51.

Per 37 C.F.R. §1.121, the current status of all the claims in the present application is presented below.

Claims 1-33 (canceled)

Claim 34 (new): An expression vector comprising the following operably linked elements:

a transcription promoter;

a DNA segment encoding a polypeptide wherein the encoded polypeptide comprises amino acid residues 31-346 of SEQ ID NO:2; and

a transcription terminator.

Claim 35 (new): The expression vector of claim 34 wherein the polypeptide comprises amino acid residues 1-346 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 36 (new): The expression vector of claim 34 wherein the DNA segment comprises nucleotides 137-1084 of SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 37 (new): The expression vector of claim 34 wherein the DNA segment further encodes a polypeptide covalently linked amino terminally or carboxy terminally to an affinity tag.

Claim 38 (new): The expression vector of claim 34 wherein the DNA segment further encodes a secretory signal sequence operably linked to the polypeptide.

Claim 39 (new): The expression vector of claim 38 wherein the secretory signal sequence comprises residues 1-28 or 1-30 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 40 (new): A cultured cell into which has been introduced an expression vector according to claim 34, wherein the cell expresses the polypeptide encoded by the DNA segment.

Claim 41 (new): The cultured cell of claim 40 wherein the cell is *E. coli*.

Claim 42 (new): The cultured cell of claim 40 wherein the cell is Chinese hamster ovary.

Claim 43 (new): A method of producing a polypeptide comprising:  
culturing a cell into which has been introduced an expression vector according to claim 34, wherein the cell expresses the polypeptide encoded by the DNA segment; and  
recovering the expressed polypeptide.

Claim 44 (new): The method of claim 43 wherein the cell is *E. coli*.

Claim 45 (new): The method of claim 43 wherein the cell is Chinese hamster ovary.

Claim 46 (new): An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide wherein the encoded polypeptide comprises amino acid residues 31-346 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 47 (new): The isolated polynucleotide of claim 46 wherein the encoded polypeptide comprises amino acid residues 1-346 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 48 (new): The isolated polynucleotide of claim 46 wherein the polynucleotide is DNA.

Claim 49 (new): The isolated polynucleotide of claim 46 wherein the polynucleotide comprises nucleotides 137-1084 of SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 50 (new): An isolated polynucleotide comprising nucleotides 137-1084 of SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 51 (new): An isolated polynucleotide encoding a fusion protein wherein the encoded fusion protein comprises a first portion and a second portion joined by a peptide bond, wherein the first portion is a polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 31-346 of SEQ ID NO:2, and wherein the second portion comprises another polypeptide.